

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Commission Chambers
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
July 9, 2015
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **SAYEGH, SUSAN S. (SSS)** – General Public, Chair
 FRANCO, KIMBERLEY (KF) - Veterinarian
 SMITH, PAMELA (PS) – Animal Breeder or Handler
 WILLIAMS, KEITH (KW) – Non-Profit Humane Group

MEMBERS ABSENT: **GIPAYA, MARY (MG)** – Large Animal Owner or Equine Conservation
 Group, Vice Chair

1. Call to Order

SSS called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members announced themselves. SSS stated that Mary Gipaya and Tiffany Voss were absent and excused.

3. Public Comment

SSS opened public comment. Bryce Henderson, President of No Kill Las Vegas (NKLVS), 1850 Horizon Parkway, stated their organization is pleased that the Animal Foundation (TAF) has announced their endeavor to go “no-kill” in five years. NKLVS has reached out to TAF for support and they have reciprocated. Michelle Quigley of TAF collaborated with NKLVS to decide all cats and dogs, no matter their status, are now able to be fostered. TAF will be implementing a new option on the owner surrender form to be notified if their pet has not had a positive placement elsewhere. Henderson hopes to hear new details from TAF about programs, timelines, rescue fees, progresses, medical issues being treated, etc. NKLVS will continue to advocate for animals in the future. Public comment closed.

4. Approval of Agenda

SSS asked for a motion to approve the July 9, 2015 agenda. Motion by KW, second by PS, all in favor, no opposition. Motion passed.

5. Receive a Presentation from the Animal Foundation Regarding Initiatives to Increase the Live Release Rate

****This item is not open to public comments****

Christine Robinson (CR), the executive director of TAF, presented the meeting’s attendees with newly implemented life-saving programs and pertinent funding information for animals in the Las Vegas community.

SSS allowed the Animal Advisory Committee (AAC) board ask questions. SSS asked if CR was looking to increase TAF staff in order to complete goals. CR responded with both yes and no, as it is dependent on the situation. TAF will hire people if necessary. Resource allocation will allow staff and/or volunteers to run certain programs depending on experience, numbers of people needed, and complexity and diversity of the programs. SSS asked if the \$2.5 million would be privately or publicly funded. CR stated a little of both. Local governments are contracted to provide a specific amount of money for the legal hold of an animal, however after the legal hold, there are no public funds going into life-saving animal programs. CR would like TAF’s government partners to contribute roughly half of the \$2.5 million. The other half would possibly come from grants, personal donations, and community efforts. SSS wanted to know specifically

which animal programs are new. CR explained the community cat, medical fund, surrender mitigation, and lost pet reunion programs are new among TAF's list.

KW stated future projections, with no new programs, would lead TAF to be "no-kill" by the year 2018. He does support the new programs, but believes they need to be in the context of what TAF foresees in the future. KW stated there is a lack of communication of data from TAF to Las Vegas jurisdictions, which may lead them to be unsupportive of new programs. CR believes TAF is out of resources and will only reach their "no-kill" status in five years by instilling new programs. She is also unaware jurisdictions have not had access to data and is willing to provide missing information. KF expected an outline of program implementation and foundation. CR does not want to rush the critical timeline process and will have more informational material in the future. She offered to come back with progress updates after their strategic planning is finished in September. SSS asked for an annual report and CR is willing to present more often. PS commended CR on the surrender mitigation program and TAF's "no-kill" goal. KW commented he has not received June's status report from TAF and would like to have the reports by the first of the month. CR explained differences between their reports and will talk to KW after the meeting; she is not sure what report he is not receiving.

6. Comments by the General Public

SSS opened public comment.

Madeleine Franco, Las Vegas, Nevada, believes the biggest problem is at the front end of pet surrender. She suggested a civics class for responsible pet ownership, with less pressure on responsible animal breeders, and education on the obligations pet ownership entails. Franco wants the process to include education and behavioral training for animals and owners because it is important.

Charlene Ragsdale, 9839 Maspalomas, Las Vegas, is pleased with TAF's intent to become "no-kill" in five years and their efforts to bring down the cost of adoptions for rescue organizations. She stated the one missing element from CR's presentation was emphasis on the importance of Spay and Neuter programs. Ragsdale stressed TAF needs to establish several small steps in order to accomplish their future goals. TAF also needs to reach out to the community and let them know specifically what it is their organization needs and how the public can help.

Diana Mogensen, 4213 Lily Glen Court, North Las Vegas 89032, heard too many broad statements from TAF and expected more information. Backyard breeding is a major problem and nothing is being done about social media advertisements. Mogensen thinks C5 should be involved in the community cat program and TAF should hold more accountability.

Ira Scheier, 5600 Russell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, expressed that Southern Nevada will become "no-kill" based on the community's opinion. He is disappointed with the list of programs, the lack of timelines and dates, and the list's similarity to the NKLTV's list provided in March to the Clark County commission. Scheier is in agreement with the community cat and shelter intervention programs, both of which NKLTV has previously promoted. The endowment TAF received and current construction budget should both be put towards funding new programs. He stated it has been a rough year for everyone, including rescues, and TAF should be working tirelessly. Gina Greisen, Nevada Voters for Animals, agrees with funding the front end of prevention intervention and suggested funding more animal control enforcement. If more money is granted, it should be put toward enforcement, animal control, and/or rescue organizations. She asked animal control for specific legal answers on the requirements of a citizen, by law, when an animal is found and if animal control is scanning for microchips in the field. Sandy Dillion, 5913 Carpenteria Way, requested the AAC committee touch base with TAF once every three months. Regina Harmon, 285 Irvin Avenue, suggested to get rid of the pull fees for rescue organizations and have quarterly

meetings with TAF. They need to be more present on social media and stop releasing animals back to owners without being spayed and neutered. Claire Ramsey, 8412 West Gilmore, is a representative of TAF, the Churchill Foundation, and Nevada Political Action for Animals. There have been positive collaborations with TAF concerning no pull fees. She has been in touch with Michelle Quigley about meeting quarterly with updates. She agrees more animal control officers are needed to help rescue organizations be successful. Public comment closed.

7. Adjournment

PS made a motion to adjourn. Second motion by KW, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.